

NOVA 101A AND

CIA PROBE

BY W.B. RAGSDALE, JR.

WASHINGTON, MAY 28 (AP) — HOUSE LEADERS TODAY WERE POISED FOR QUICK

ACTION TO CURB PLANS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS ON U.S. INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

THE LEADERS WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE YESTERDAY WHEN THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE NAMED A FIVE-MAN SUBCOMMITTEE TO DETERMINE IF A FULL SCALE INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE MADE OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND SIMILAR TOP SECRET AGENCIES IN THE DEFENSE AND STATE DEPARTMENTS.

REP. HOWARD W. SMITH, D-FA., RULES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, GAVE THE SUBCOMMITTEE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS AND SUMMON WITNESSES. THE ACTION CAME WITHOUT FAN FARE AND WAS APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION BY ANY RULES COMMITTEE MEMBER.

HOUSE LEADERS SAID THEY WOULD TRY TO PERSUADE REP. RAY J. MADDEN, D-IND., THE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, NOT TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS WITH NON-CONGRESSIONAL WITNESSES.

IF NECESSARY, THE LEADERS SAID, AN EFFORT MIGHT BE MADE TO HAVE THE RULES COMMITTEE REVERSE THE ORDER CREATING THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

THE RULES COMMITTEE PREVIOUSLY HAD SHELVED SOME 20 RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR INVESTIGATIONS OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND HAS 16 MORE AWAITING ACTION.

A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ACTION, PRESIDENT KENNEDY, IN A SPECIAL ADDRESS TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS, HAD SAID:

"... OUR WHOLE INTELLIGENCE EFFORT MUST BE REVIEWED, AND ITS COORDINATION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF POLICY ASSURED. THIS IS NOT A MATTER ON WHICH PUBLIC DISCUSSION IS USEFUL. ..."

SHORTLY AFTER THE CUBAN INVASION FIASCO LAST MONTH, THE PRESIDENT NAMED A SPECIAL TASK FORCE HEADED BY RETIRED GEN. MAXWELL D. TAYLOR, FORMER ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, TO STUDY POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM.

SMITH, REACHED AT HIS LEESBURG, VA., HOME LAST NIGHT, SAID IT WAS NOT HIS INTENTION THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE CONDUCT A WIDESPREAD INVESTIGATION OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID THAT SINCE THERE HAD BEEN SO MANY RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR A PROBE OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES HE FELT A BRIEF STUDY SHOULD BE MADE TO SEE IF ONE WAS NECESSARY.

THE VETERAN RULES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT HIS COMMITTEE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO ORDER A FORMAL PROBE. HE SAID IT COULD RECOMMEND AN INVESTIGATION TO THE HOUSE, BUT ONLY THE HOUSE COULD ORDER A FORMAL INVESTIGATION.

HOWEVER, MADDEN HAD A MUCH BROADER VIEW OF HIS GROUP'S MANDATE.

MADDEN SAID HE FAVORS PUBLIC HEARINGS WHERE THEY CAN BE HELD WITHOUT ENDANGERING NATIONAL SECURITY.

"I THINK WE SHOULD HEAR OUTSIDE WITNESSES, ALSO," HE SAID. "I THINK WE SHOULD EXHAUST EVERY POSSIBLE AVENUE. MY OBSERVATION IS THAT THERE IS SOMETHING RADICALLY WRONG WITH OUR INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS. THIS CUBAN THING WAS A MAJOR DISASTER AND POINTED UP THE WEAKNESS OF OUR INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM."

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MADDEN SAID IF THE COMMITTEE APPROVED HE PLANNED TO CALL, AMONG OTHERS, CIA CHIEF ALLEN DULLES.

PAST REQUESTS FOR PROBES OF INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN REJECTED ON THE GROUNDS THE SUBJECT MATTER COULD INVOLVE A DANGER TO NATIONAL SECURITY. DULLES HAS ALREADY TESTIFIED ABOUT THE CUBAN INVASION BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

MADDEN SAID THE SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD HOLD ITS FIRST SESSION JUNE 5 TO DECIDE WHAT WITNESSES TO CALL AND WHETHER HEARINGS WOULD BE PUBLIC OR SECRET.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ARE REPS. JAMES J. DELANEY, D-N.Y., B.F. SISK, D-CALIF., CLARENCE J. BROWN, R-OHIO, AND H. ALLAN SMITH, R-CALIF.

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